

**PUBLIC HEARING
ON INCREASING CEMETERY PROPERTY TAXES**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Romeo held a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.7500 mills in the cemetery maintenance operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2020. If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 5.3% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved the operating revenue will increase by 0% over the preceding year's operating revenue. The anticipated tax revenue to be generated by the proposed cemetery maintenance operating tax millage is \$127,459.

Public comments were heard via Zoom and previous email submission.

Public hearing ended at 7:13 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING
ON INCREASING WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Romeo held a public hearing on a proposed increase of water and wastewater (sewer) rates to be effective for billings on and after July 1, 2020. The meeting to take action on the proposed water and wastewater rate increase will follow the public hearing during the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. If adopted, the proposed water rate will increase operating revenues 32.7% over such revenues generated by rates permitted without holding a hearing. The anticipated water revenue to be generated by the proposed water rate increase is \$272,654. If adopted, the proposed wastewater rate will increase operating revenues 23.9% over such revenues generated by rates permitted without holding a hearing. The anticipated wastewater revenue to be generated by the proposed wastewater rate increase is \$356,882. A quarterly residential minimum quarterly bill would increase \$35.89 (27.09%) from \$132.50 to \$168.40. This equates to \$56.13 per month which is a \$11.97 per month increase. A quarterly residential bill using 24,000 gallons (average household usage) would increase \$75.65 (28.63%) from \$264.24 to \$339.89. This equates to \$113.30 per month which is a \$25.22 per month increase.

Public comments were heard via Zoom and previous email submission.

Public hearing ended at 7:26 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON
2020-2021 BUDGET AND MILLAGE RATES**

The Village Council of the Village of Romeo held a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Recommended Budget and property tax millage rates to be levied in 2020. **THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.** The meeting to take action on the proposed budget and millage rates will follow the public hearing during the Regular Board of Trustee meeting.

Public comments were heard via Zoom and previous email submission.

Public hearing ended at 7:27 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes

Date: May 18, 2020

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065
South Building Meeting Room

Present: Bartholomew
Edwards
Fowler – Remote
Hart
Poznanski
Seidel
Malzahn

1. CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE AND ROLL CALL. President Malzahn called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.
2. *Approval of Minutes*
MOTION by Edwards second by Seidel to approve the meeting minutes from the April 20, 2020 Special Meeting
YEAS: Edwards, Seidel, Bartholomew, Fowler, Hart, Poznanski, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
MOTION by Edwards second by Hart to approve the meeting minutes from the April 20, 2020 Regular Meeting
YEAS: Edwards, Hart, Seidel, Poznanski, Hart, Fowler, Bartholomew, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
MOTION by Hart second by Edwards to approve the meeting minutes from the April 20, 2020 Closed Session
YEAS: Hart, Edwards, Poznanski, Bartholomew, Seidel, Fowler, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
3. *Approval of Bills*
MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to approve the May bills in the amounts of \$143,027.66 and \$18,842.63
AYES: Bartholomew, Hart, Fowler, Seidel, Poznanski, Edwards, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
4. *Approval of Agenda*
MOTION by Hart second by Edwards to approve the agenda with the addition of the GASB Report by Watkins Ross under New Business
AYES: Hart, Edwards, Seidel, Bartholomew, Poznanski, Fowler, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
5. *Special Presentations* - None
6. *Correspondences* – President Malzahn acknowledged 2 correspondences

7. *Officer reports*

a. President-

The 2020 Census is still ongoing. The Village has 76.6% of households accounted for but we need to be at 100%, it is crucial that everyone is counted because a majority of the Federal funding that we receive is tied to the number of residents for our Roads, Schools, and Community Block Grant allocations. So please if you have not responded do it today – it's only 9 questions and takes less than 5 minutes.

As wait and hope that Governor Whitmer will release the Stay-At-Home order soon, I am working on our back-to-work safety plan. This includes installing plexi-glass to the front counter area and developing a questionnaire that residents will be required to answer upon entry.

The Village offices are closed on Wednesdays thru June 1st and we will reevaluate that once we hear the update on the EO. I issued furloughs for a three-week period for several employees, I have cut staffing hours to 32 for those that have specific job functions that are not covered by other co-workers. This should help us cut payroll expenses until we have a better understanding of how the state budget deficit will impact our revenues.

I am waiting for an update from the State Revenue Sharing Board on their plan fund to fill the 3.1-billion-dollar deficit – there is rumor that they plan to keep any overpayment monies from the Community Stabilization funding instead of dispersing it the local municipalities.

State legislators approved the HEREOS fund over the weekend, so will be submitting documentation for our public safety essential workers in hopes of some reimbursement for payroll expenses.

As of today Romeo has had 12 reported Covid cases with 3 deaths, with an additional 17 / 4 deaths cases in Bruce and 76 / 3 deaths in Washington Township both with 2 deaths.

There are many community resources for food available, most are listed on social media or through Samaritan House. Forgotten Harvest continues to have pop-up pantries at St. Clements Church on Thursday's

We continue to utilize our Romeo Village Hall Facebook page to share information as it becomes available so please follow that page if you are online.

Sidewalk work is set to begin in the next week or so, weather permitting. I am working with our contractor to coordinate addresses and notifications to the homeowners whose sidewalks have been identified as hazards.

If you watched the Washington Board Meeting from April 29th, you will know that the Board voted 6/1 to place on the August Ballot a millage request for up to .75 mils to fund parks and recreation. The proposal does not tie in to adoption in Bruce Township and it does allow Washington Twp. to decided annually how much tax to levy to support programming and services, they could choose to levy the full .75 mills that we all currently pay or they could decide to not levy any and withhold funding. I am recommending that residents vote yes on this proposal and vote no to the incumbents.

b. Clerk – The Cemetery Board had a meeting on Friday May 8, 2020 at the Village Hall. Items discussed were flags for the Veterans graves in the cemetery. The Memorial Day Parade has been canceled due to the Covid-19 virus, however flags for Veteran's graves will still be taken care of. Anyone interested in volunteering please let me know. Also, another item discussed was the budget for the 2020-2021 FY budget and projects.

c. Treasurer – No report. Treasurer available for questions during the ACH & Electronic Transaction Policy agenda item.

d. Trustees – Trustee Fowler shared that he has been having discussions with residents in regards to rate and tax increases. Trustee Poznanski reported that the new benches provided by the DDA have all been installed in the Village.

e. Ex-Officio Planning Commission Member – No report due to no meeting

8. *Committee Reports:* None

9. *Unfinished Business:*

- a. AT&T Lease – Bryan Monaghan from AT&T joined the meeting via Zoom. Emails from residents were read by President Malzahn.

MOTION by Malzahn second by Hart to approve the lease for AT&T cellular antennae

AYES: Malzahn, Hart, Bartholomew, Edwards, Seidel

NAYS: Fowler, Poznanski

Motion carried.

- b. Sign Ordinance

MOTION by Hart second by Seidel to approve the Sign Ordinance as presented

AYES: Hart, Seidel, Bartholomew, Poznanski, Edwards, Fowler, Malzahn

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- c. Marijuana Ordinance – Recreational/Medical Review

Village Board to review drafts of the Recreational and Medical Marijuana Ordnances. No further board action was taken.

10. *New Business:*

- a. Cemetery Millage

MOTION by Edwards second by Seidel for the approval of the cemetery levy of .75 mills of ad valerom property taxes to be levied for the purposes for which the millage is to be instituted.

YEAS: Edwards, Seidel, Bartholomew, Hart, Malzahn

NAYS: Poznanski, Fowler

Motion carried.

- b. Utility Rates

MOTION by Malzahn second by Hart that the proposed water, waste water and miscellaneous rates as proposed in the attached rate schedule are adopted effective for billings on and after July 1, 2020. Those numbers include: for water – 4.35 rate per 1,000 gallons, for water from Great Lakes Water Authority – 7.96, for water outside the Village 0-50,000 gallons – 9.27, water outside the Village users 50,000 – 99,999 gallons – 12.32, waste water and sewers 0 – 10,000 gallons – 11.29, waste water and sewer 10,000 – 99,999 – 7.9, and the only fee that changed in the Miscellaneous fee schedule was a Rental Deposit per unit at \$250.00

YEAS: Malzahn, Hart, Edwards, Bartholomew, Seidel

NAYS: Fowler, Poznanski

Motion carried.

- c. DDA Budget & Revenue Sharing Agreement

MOTION by Edwards second by Poznanski to approve the DDA Budget and Revenue Sharing Agreement as presented

AYES: Edwards, Poznanski, Hart, Bartholomew, Seidel, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler

Motion carried.

- d. 2020-2021 FY Budget Approval

MOTION by Hart second by Edwards to accept the 2020-2021 FY Budget as presented.

YEAS: Hart, Edwards, Bartholomew, Seidel, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler, Poznanski

Motion carried.

- e. Bruce Township Sewer Agreement 425 – President Malzahn will submit a letter to Bruce Township in response to their letter submitted to the Village in regards to the Sewer Agreement 425
- f. ACH & Electronic Transaction Policy
MOTION by Malzahn second by Seidel to approve the ACH & Electronic Transaction Policy as presented.
AYES: Malzahn, Poznanski, Hart, Bartholomew, Seidel, Edwards, Fowler
NAYS: None
Motion Carried.
- g. DDA Resignation and Appointment – Jon Rose
MOTION by Malzahn second by Poznanski to appoint Jon Rose of Main’s Treat Coffeehouse to the Downtown Development Authority
YEAS: Malzahn, Poznanski, Fowler, Edwards, Bartholomew, Seidel, Hart
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- h. GASB Report by Watkins Ross
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Poznanski to have Watkins Ross complete our GASB Report in regards to our OPEB liability in time for our audit
AYES: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Edwards, Seidel, Hart, Malzahn
NAYS: Fowler
Motion carried.

11. *Public Comments*

12. *Adjournment*

MOTION by Fowler second by Hart to adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.
AYES: Fowler, Hart, Seidel, Bartholomew, Poznanski, Edwards, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Trapp, Village Clerk